

Temporary AFIC Form 309
(2 Jun 52)

NAME	John L. Johnson	Incident # 130
ATC NO.		DATE OF INFO 17 May 1948
AF ID#		LOCATION Sett. Ilevna & Wild City, Montana
AFIC ID#		CATEGORY Little civilian
DATE OF REPORT		DATE IN TO AFIC
TIME OF THE PHENOMENON		color White
CHARACTER	Cloud	DESCRIPTION that of H. H. Hooper Aircraft picture obtained
SIZE	Fairly Large Compared with A/C	APPROX. 700 ft. above ground
ROUTE	West, slightly South, then West	DURATION OF THE OBJECT 20 Minutes
NO. OF CARS	1	TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground
COULD		HANDLING Performed Arc.
PICTURES	Sketches	REMARKS Map showing location of object. <i>Refraction of Plane Wave</i>

[REDACTED]

17 MAY 1948

Incident #130 -- Piomra, Montana -- 17 May 1948

If this report is to be taken at face value, then no astronomical explanation of this incident is possible.

However, in seeking even a remote logical explanation for the incident, the present investigator is impressed with the fact that on this very night, May 17, Venus was at its greatest brilliancy, with a magnitude of -4.2, or about 100 times brighter than a first magnitude star. It would have appeared that night as an intensely bright light in the northwest.

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

[REDACTED]

DR HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

a. High probability:

#26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94,
95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140,
147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216,
219, 238.

b. Fair or low probability:

#19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100,
112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192,
199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:

#3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115,
126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163,
169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198,
200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:

#4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107,
108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):
#39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:

#38, 44, 45, 47, 55, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118,
125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213,
229, 232, 233.

b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:

#1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71,
75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162,
168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226,
227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245.